

**Response of
Wisconsin Power and Light Company
to
The Public Service Commission of Wisconsin
Data Request No. 1.10**

Docket Number: 05-CE-137
Date of Request: January 29, 2009
Information Requested By: Ken Detmer
Date Responded: February 16, 2009
Author: Eric Guelker
Author's Title: Mgr Environmental Services
Author's Telephone No.: (608) 458-8163
Witness: (If other than Author)

Data Request No. 1.10:

p. 17 footnote 4: Provide an update to the statement about which counties are non-attainment for PM2.5

Response:

On December 22, 2008, the EPA issued the agency's final decision on status of meeting the 2006 fine particulate matter (PM2.5) national ambient air quality standard (NAAQS). These results may be viewed at the following link:

<http://www.epa.gov/pmdesignations/2006standards/state.htm>

Attachment 1.10 is the Wisconsin letter of notification from the EPA.

In Wisconsin, the following areas were designated as non-attainment: Brown, Milwaukee, Racine, Waukesha, Dane, and Columbia (partial). Columbia is posted as a partial county and includes Pacific Township.

EPA's action today is the continuation of a longer process to achieve attainment with the 2006 PM2.5 NAAQS. The anticipated future timeline for action is as follows:

- The State of Wisconsin has until February 20, 2009 to submit certified monitoring data for 2008, which, in conjunction with 2006 and 2007 data, could show additional counties or areas are in attainment with the NAAQS.
- EPA will publish final 2006 PM2.5 designations in Federal Register and these will take effect within 90-days of publication.
- State Implementation Plans (SIPs) due to EPA demonstrating actions (i.e., emissions reduction rules) to be taken to achieve attainment - due 3 years from effective date.
- Attainment deadline to meet the 2006 PM2.5 NAAQS - required 5 years from effective date.



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

December 22, 2008

THE ADMINISTRATOR

The Honorable James Doyle
Governor, State of Wisconsin
State Capitol
Madison, Wisconsin 53707

Dear Governor Doyle:

Thank you for your continued work toward improving air quality. Together, I believe we have made considerable progress in reducing air pollution and its impacts on public health and the environment.

There are many tasks which the Clean Air Act imposes upon the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), in coordination with state, tribal and local governments. One of these obligations concerns the designations of areas that are considered to be in nonattainment with National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS).

In this regard, I am writing to share with you the EPA finding that levels of fine particles in the outdoor air of some of your communities do not meet the 24-hour NAAQS for fine particles (PM_{2.5}). Fine particle pollution is a complex mixture of extremely small particles and liquid droplets. When breathed in, this pollution can cause a variety of significant health problems, including premature death in people with heart or lung disease. Fine particle pollution is also the main cause of visibility impairment in the nation's cities and our national parks.

On September 21, 2006, EPA strengthened the 24-hour fine particle standard. The Agency lowered the standard by nearly 50 percent, from 65 to 35 micrograms per cubic meter. EPA strengthened this standard based on the latest science and public health information. Subsequently, in accordance with provisions contained in the Clean Air Act requiring governors to submit a list of nonattainment, attainment, and unclassifiable areas, EPA solicited state and tribal recommendations as to what areas both met and exceeded the 24-hour fine particle NAAQS based on recent air quality data. In August 2008, EPA sent letters to tribal leaders and governors indicating the Agency's assessment of what areas did not meet the 24-hour standard. A public comment period was held with respect to these initial determinations, which closed on October 2, 2008.

Today represents the next step in the process of implementing the PM_{2.5} NAAQS. In a *Federal Register* notice being signed today, I will be acting on the information and recommendations I have received and will be designating nonattainment areas for the 24-hour fine particle NAAQS. This action is part of the broader federal, tribal, and state effort to bring

all areas of the country into compliance. For areas in your State that are designated as "nonattainment," additional actions to achieve a common goal of cleaner, healthier air will be required. For areas in your State that attain the standard, you will need to continue your efforts and act to sustain air that meets federal standards. The enclosed table lists the nonattainment areas in your State and identifies the included counties.

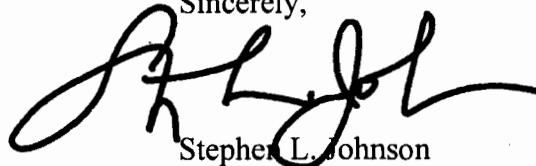
In addition to the initial letters and information sent to recommend designations, I would note that EPA has also reviewed additional data and materials which were submitted for many areas. The considered review of all information that the Agency has received led to the determinations rendered today.

Today's area designations are based on air quality monitoring data for the years 2005, 2006 and 2007. These designations will take effect 90 days after the *Federal Register* notice I signed today is published – likely early April, 2009. As we are very near the end of 2008, I invite you to accelerate the review of your State's 24-hour PM_{2.5} air quality monitoring data for the year. If you would like EPA to consider a change to an area designation based on 2006 – 2008 data, please submit to your EPA Regional contact complete, quality assured, certified 24-hour PM_{2.5} air quality data for 2008 by February 20, 2009. For additional technical information, please visit <http://www.epa.gov/pmdesignations>.

Reducing fine particle pollution will require continued efforts from EPA as well as our valued partners at the State, Tribal and Local environmental agencies. EPA has taken many actions that will reduce fine particle pollution both regionally and across the country. The Clean Diesel Program, for example, will dramatically reduce particle forming emissions from highway, non-road and stationary diesel engines. In addition, the implementation plans States develop to attain the annual PM_{2.5} standard (set in 1997 and implemented through designations that were finalized in 2005) will help us achieve our clean air goals. The development and implementation of plans for the 24-hour fine particle NAAQS represents the next step in our drive to bring air quality in line with health-based standards.

Thank you again for your work to achieve clean air.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S. L. Johnson", written over the printed name.

Stephen L. Johnson

Enclosure

cc: Matthew J. Frank
Environmental Commissioner, Wisconsin

Lynn Buhl
Regional Administrator, Region 5

Enclosure – Final Nonattainment Areas, Wisconsin

State	Area Name	Nonattainment Counties
Wisconsin	Green Bay, WI	Brown
	Madison-Baraboo, WI	Columbia (p) Dane
	Milwaukee-Racine, WI	Milwaukee Racine Waukesha

(p) partial county